



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Bovine Tuberculosis in California

On April 25, 2003, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) removed California from its list of tuberculosis (TB) accredited-free states because three TB-affected herds were detected within a 48-month period. California is now classified as a TB modified accredited advanced State.

Update

Since May 2002, bovine TB has been confirmed in three California dairy herds. Two herds were located in Tulare County and one in Kings County. All herds were quarantined, test-positive cattle were destroyed, and the remainder of the herds depopulated. **California can reapply for accredited-free status in April 2005, provided no additional infected herds are detected.**

Investigation of a TB-infected cow found in September 2002 at a California slaughterhouse is ongoing.



USDA personnel working in California slaughterhouses are responsible for detecting two of the infected herds. California currently leads the nation in TB slaughterhouse surveillance; 647 samples for TB surveillance were collected in 2002.

As of June 30, 2003, 393,559 cattle in 267 herds have been tested for bovine TB since this investigation began, and about 13,000 have been destroyed.

Cumulative Since May 13, 2002	
Number of herds tested	267
Number of animals tested	393,559
Number of herds quarantined	3
Number of cattle destroyed	~13,000
Average number of field personnel	30

As of February 2003, we recommended a TB test within the current fair season on exhibition dairy cattle more than six months of age from Tulare, Kings, and Fresno Counties.

Impact on California

With the downgrade from TB-free to modified accredited advanced, all sexually intact cattle and bison leaving California require official identification and a certificate stating that they were negative to an official TB test done within 60 days prior to the date of movement unless moved:

- ≠ To slaughter at an approved slaughtering establishment;
- ≠ From an accredited herd and accompanied by a certificate stating that the accredited herd completed the testing necessary for accredited status with negative results within one year prior to the date of movement.

The new TB requirements do not apply to sexually intact heifers moving to feedlots, or steers and spayed heifers, until September 30, 2003. However, some states may have more restrictive policies for moving feeder cattle. Always check with the state of destination for their TB test requirements.

Agreements developed with neighboring states ease the TB testing requirements on breeding beef cattle moving interstate annually for grazing on an approved Pasture-to-Pasture permit. Breeding beef cattle 24 months of age and older require a TB test within 12 months of application for the permit, and subsequently every three years to continue to move annually while California is less than TB-free.

CDFA/USDA Steps to Eradicate TB

- ≠ Test all dairies in Fresno, Kings and Tulare Counties (~773,000 milking cows in 700 herds) prioritized by risk. About one-third of this testing is completed.
- ≠ Use newly approved blood tests (Gamma Interferon) for confirmatory testing in beef "commuter herds"
- ≠ Require a TB test on all breeding dairy cattle over 6 months of age entering CA, except CA returnees (effective August 15, 2003).
- ≠ Restrict Mexican feeder steers to "designated" pastures/feedlots (proposed for 2004 import season).
- ≠ Comply with USDA requirements for "Regionalization" of the state if another infected herd is found.
- ≠ Regain "Accredited Free" status by 2005.

CDFA Animal Health Branch Offices

Sacramento (HQ)	916-654-1447
Modesto	209-491-9350
Ontario	909-947-4462
Redding	530-225-2140
Tulare	559-685-3500
Tulare TB Task Force	559-687-1158

CDFA Milk and Dairy Foods Control Branch Offices

Stockton	209-466-7186
Oakland	510-622-4810
Fresno	559-445-5506
Ontario	909-923-9929

USDA/APHIS/VS

916-854-3900 or 877-741-3690